

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 11355 020901Z

20

ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 PM-03 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00

/031 W

----- 098246

O 020805Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8255

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANILA 11355

LIMDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HUMMEL FROM SULLIVAN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 11209

1. WHEN I DISCUSSED YOUR COMING VISIT WITH SECRETARY ROMULO AND AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ MORNING AUGUST 2, BOTH OF THEM URGED THAT YOU BE PREPARED TO TALK SUBSTANTIVELY AND WITH CANDOR TO PRESIDENT MARCOS ON SUBJECT U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES. BOTH CLAIM THAT MARCOS "AND OTHER SENIOR FILIPINOS" HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MANNER IN WHICH U.S. PERCEIVES ITS OBLIGATIONS IN EVENT PHILIPPINES ATTACKED. ESSENCE OF THESE DOUBTS CONTAINED IN MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD PAPER WHICH IS SUBJECT REFTEL.

2. PHILS PROFESS TO BELIEVE (WHETHER SINCERELY OR PURELY FOR TACTICAL REASONS) THAT U.S. WILL COME TO DEFENSE OF PHILIPPINES ONLY RPT ONLY IF U.S. FORCES STATIONED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 11355 020901Z

HERE ARE ATTACKED. THIS BELIEF STEMS FROM U.S. SENATE TESTIMONY

IN 1969, PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF WAR POWERS ACT, WHEN EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITNESSES SAID U.S. FORCES WOULD REACT "AUTOMATICALLY" AND "INSTANTANEOUSLY" ONLY IN SUCH AN EVENT. OTHERWISE, WITNESSES POINTED OUT, EXECUTIVE WOULD OBSERVE "CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES" AND HAVE TO ASK FOR DECLARATION OF WAR BEFORE U.S. TROOPS COULD BE COMMITTED.

3. THESE PHILIPPINE DOUBTS (WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE GENUINE) ARE SAID ALSO TO REFLECT THEIR CONCERN ABOUT "NEVER AGAIN" ATTITUDE OF U.S. CONGRESS IN LIGHT OF VIET-NAM EXPERIENCE. THEY ARE NATURALLY COMPOUNDED BY PHIL REALIZATION THAT THE MARCOS "NEW SOCIETY" IS NOT THE MOST POPULAR FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN MANY QUARTERS OF THE CONGRESS.

4. THE DOUBTS HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

A. THE MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVE A PHIL DEMAND FOR "RENT," OR COMPENSATION" OR OTHER U.S. PAYMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO MUTUALITY IN THE U.S.-R.P. ALLIANCE.

B. PHILS SEE SOME OF THEIR SAFETY THESE DAYS IN ASSUMING A NON-ALIGNED COLORATION AND PROFESS TO BE EXAMING WHETHER THEY WISH OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY TO CONTINUE, OR TO BE TIED INTO THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT.

C. PHILS REALIZE THEY ARE FLIRTING WITH DANGER IN THEIR OIL DRILLING EXERCISE ON REED BANK AND THEIR OCCUPATION OF ATOLLS IN THE SPRATLY GROUP AND ARE LOOKING FOR MAXIMUM INSURANCE FROM U.S.

5. WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE SKULL SESSION WITH YOU AT STAG IN-HOUSE DINNER THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, PRIOR TO YOUR MEETING WITH MARCOS. HOWEVER, SUGGEST YOU MAY WISH TO GET MAXIMUM BRIEFING FROM WASHINGTON ON THESE SUBJECTS PRIOR YOUR ARRIVAL HERE.

6. LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SESSIONS. THEY SHOULD BE LIVELY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANILA 11355 020901Z

FUN. BEST REGARDS.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, VISITS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA11355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760296-1293
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760896/aaaadgqp.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 MANILA 11209
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, RP, US, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006